

April 2026

NZTGA Newsletter



NEW ZEALAND
TRANSPLANT GAMES

www.transplantnewzealand.org.nz

First and foremost, a big welcome to all our new NZTGA members, we hope you enjoy being part of this special group. Please feel free to reach out and contact us at any stage.

hello@transplantnewzealand.org.nz

A message from our President



NZTGA President Conal Beban

Hello everyone.

As we deliver our first newsletter of the year, I'm pleased to share my first President's Message and what a privilege that is.

Before looking ahead, it's important to acknowledge the leadership and dedication of our immediate past President, Laurence Smith. Laurence has given an enormous amount of time, energy and heart to NZTGA. His steady leadership, care for our members, and belief in the power of transplant sport have helped shape the strong, connected organisation we are today. On behalf of all members, thank you, Laurence, your contribution has made a real and lasting difference.

Excitement is already building for the Australian Transplant Games this September. It's been incredibly encouraging to see such strong early numbers from New Zealand athletes, supporters, and families keen to attend. These Games are a powerful reminder of why NZTGA exists, not just to compete, but to connect, to support one another, and to celebrate the extraordinary gift of life that transplantation represents.

At its heart, NZTGA is about showing up; in whatever way, shape, or form you find yourself in. Whether you're competing, volunteering, supporting from the sidelines, returning after a tough period, or simply staying connected, you belong here. Our community respects the courage it takes to front up, wherever you are on your journey. We value presence just as much as performance.

As we move forward in 2026, the committee has taken time to reflect on who we are and what we stand for. From that reflection, we are proud to introduce our new values:

GIVE (a clearer expression of the spirit of our community).

Gratitude – for the donors and donor families who make everything possible, and for the support that surrounds us.

Integrity – in how we lead, how we treat one another, and how we represent transplant sport.

Vitality – celebrating movement, wellbeing, and the life-enhancing power of staying active.

Empathy – recognising every transplant journey is different, and meeting each other with understanding and care.

These values aren't just words. They reflect how we already show up at Games, in training, online, and in the quiet moments of support behind the scenes. GIVE will guide our decisions, our storytelling, and how we grow as an organisation.

I'm excited about the year ahead, strengthening our community, welcoming new members, sharing our stories more widely, and continuing to honour the incredible generosity that underpins everything we do. We have some exciting projects underway which we look forward to sharing with you.

Your contribution to our community is important so please feel your feedback, thoughts, ideas or things you've been up to with us.

Thank you for being part of NZTGA.

Conal Beban, NZTGA President.

ANZAC Day

On behalf of the NZTGA, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and safe ANZAC weekend. Please take the time to attend a service, donate or simply remember those that made the ultimate sacrifice (and all of those that have stood up for New Zealand during times of conflict) in contributing towards the freedom we enjoy today. Least we forget.



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Australia Transplant Games 2026 .

As mentioned by our President, we have had good interest shown (and confirmation by some) in attending the 2026 edition of the Australian Transplant Games.

The games are being held in Launceston, Tasmania, from Saturday 26th September to Saturday 3rd October, 2026. It is open to all transplant recipients, living donors, donor families, and the friends and family of recipients.

Held every two years, the games are truly an inspirational event, providing living proof of the success of organ transplantation.

The week long event will include a fun run, parade and opening ceremony, an indigenous cultural experience, a thank you morning tea, numerous and varied wellness sessions, a gala diner, and of course a week long schedule of competition and sports, including athletics, badminton, backgammon, sudoku, scrabble, golf, lawn bowls, pétanque, pickleball, swimming, tennis, cycling and many more.

Simply getting to the start line, participation and celebrating life is first and foremost throughout the week, anything above that is a bonus.

Please note the following key registration dates:

- Early Bird discount, closes 3rd May 2026
- General Entry, closes 1st July 2026
- Last chance, closes 3rd August 2026

New Zealand NZTGA uniforms are available to purchase (these will be the same design as those worn to the 2025 World Transplant Games).

For further information, please visit <https://australiantransplantgames.com/> or contact us directly.



We want to see you!

If you have attended any events, achieved something special, enjoyed a Saturday morning Park Run, visited a DoC hut, or simply have been out and about keeping active, we want to see you.

Please, send us in your photos and tell us what you have been up to.



Fresh from completing the Christchurch Round the Bays is kidney recipient Conal Beban (left), lungs recipient Jess Avenell and living donor Andy Bryant.



Three organ transplants isn't enough to stop Dave Irvine from reaching the summit of One Tree Hill in Auckland.



The orange Ranui House t-shirt ensured Conal Beban was easily visible whilst completing the 10km run, as part of the Christchurch Marathon.

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Key dates ahead:

Organ Donation New Zealand Thanksgiving Services 2026

Each year, Organ Donation New Zealand recognise those connected with organ donation and transplantation. These moving services celebrate and remember those that have gone before us but donated organs for others to continue on, and those that have received life saving organ/s.

This years events will be held at the following locations:

Wellington

Sunday 3 May, 1:30pm

Cathedral of St Paul, Cnr Hill and Molesworth Street, Wellington

Auckland

Sunday 17 May, 1:30pm

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Cnr St Stephens Ave & Parnell Road, Parnell, Auckland

Dunedin

Sunday 24 May, 1:30pm

Hanover Hall, 65 Hanover Street, Dunedin

Note: This service will be live-streamed and available for future viewing.

For more information, and to RSVP, please follow the below link:

<https://donor.co.nz/media-centre/thanksgiving-services-2026/>

Other dates:

World Blood Donor day

14th June

World Organ Donation day

A day dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of organ and tissue donation.

13th August

World Transplant Games, Leuven, Belgium

1st - 8th August, 2027

Social Media

We are continually looking to grow our community and spread the word about organ donation. Please visit our Facebook and Instagram pages, "Like" us and share us.



NZTGA Committee vacancy

We currently have a vacancy on the NZTGA Committee, including the role of the Secretary position. If you have the skillset, or are interested in getting involved (or know someone that might be), please get in touch.

Next edition.....

Thanks for reading.

In addition to our regular columns, our next edition will include A Diary in Dresden, a daily run through of a week at the World Transplant Games (last held in Dresden, Germany, in 2025). Learn about what goes on during this special week; from the Opening Ceremony, special events, the games, competing and the special memories created. Its sure to be motivating reading during the New Zealand winter.

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